

From: Paul Rech
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/8/01 7:09am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Sir/Madam,

You're no doubt tired of reading these e-mails, so let me cut to the chase.

The proposed settlement with Microsoft will not do a thing. None of the provisions will have any effect, which may be what the current administration really wants.

Here's what would make a difference and it's quite simple.

- 1) Open their file formats, protocols, APIs.
- 2) Allow vendors to clearly price the cost of the Windows OS when you purchase a PC.

The former will allow all companies to compete again in application software. MS keeps data locked into their apps by changing these formats every now and then. Forcing consumers to keep using their products. MS Word is the standard not because it's the best, but because so many businesses have data stored in those types of docs. They don't even want to think about the hassle of converting.

The latter will show people how much they have to pay for the MS OS and allow them to choose to pay for it or not. Lots of people have a perfectly good copy of Win 98 sitting around, why should they have to buy XP with a new computer when they don't want or need it? Get rid of bundling once and for all.

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